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one: flowers

Light flickered into the den of a black and white tom cat, he opened his yellow eyes. He was Tallstar leader of his clan, WindClan. Tallstar blinked, the light bothered his eyes, as it shone right into them. He flicked his tail in annoyance and yawned.

Tallstar was now leader, and that meant the cats in his clan looked up to him. He remembered all the cats who had gotten him where he was, and he especially remembered his journey with Jake a few moons ago. Jake was a kittypet, to many cats. To Tallstar, Jake was much more than a kittypet. Jake was the reason he was still with his clan today, Jake had helped feel like he finally belonged somewhere. Tallstar knew that he and Jake would likely never cross paths again, it saddened him. There was still hope deep within him, he remembered trying to convince Jake to join his clan. They both at known at heart, that they could never belong together.

Tallstar felt tired and wanted to clear his head. He had told his deputy to take care of the clan while he was gone, he wanted to hunt by himself. He wondered why he suddenly felt like he was missing something, it had hit him the past few moons. It was like he had unfinished buisness... Tallstar wandered throughout the forest, aimlessy. He caught some of the prey he found, and some of it escaped. It was New-leaf, and Tallstar wasn't too worried about his clan. The deeper he went inti the woods, the more he felt lost. All he wanted to know was why he was feeling this way, he was going to search and search until he found out.

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By sunset, had caught two squirrel, a rabbit, and a bird. That was when he realized how late it was, he felt tired. Tallstar couldn't remember where he had buried his prey, he turned around and tried to look for the dirt that he unearthed in order to bury his kill without having to carry it. He felt even more desperate and lost than before. He knew he wouldn't find what he was looking for in

the woods, but he had found prey for his clan and he needed to bring it home.

Tallstar only then realized where he was, it was near the twoleg place where he had said goodbye to Jake many moons ago. Tallstar remembered the emotions he carried home with him to his clan that day. He remembered Jake's sillouhette disappearing into the distance as they cut ties. He looked at the flowers beneath his feet, he felt sudden nostalgia.

He turned to leave, but something kept him there. Out of the blue, he saw a figure in the distance. Tallstar stood there, staring as it inched closer. "Talltail?!" He heard a voice.

Tallstar blinked, "Jake...?" His eyes then widened. He saw the familiar ginger fur and emerald eyes of the kittypet. "Is that really you?! Am I dreaming?" Tallstar hadn't felt more shock ever before.

"I'm so happy to see you!" Jake mewed happily. "It-It's so dark out here, I wasn't sure it was really you Talltail!"

Tallstar purred happily, he felt complete suddenly. He looked into Jake's deep green eyes, the suddenly remembered. "It's so great to see you," Jake nodded, "I forgot to mention it, but I'm Tallstar now!"

Jake's eyes widened, "Really?" Tallstar nodded happily, he felt pride swelling in his chest. Jake smiled, "I told you you would do good for your clan!"

Tallstar suddenly gasped, "It's so late! My clan must be wondering where I am..." Tallstar gazed at the flowers again, and then looked at Jake.

"It's alright, go back to your clan. They must be worried sick..." Jake meowed slowly, "Before you go, I have to ask... What are you doing out here? I've never seen you here since..."

"I was hunting to clear my mind... Er, I lost track of time and wandered too far..." Tallstar replied, "What brings you here?"

"I don't really know..." Jake began, but then added, "You know me. I like to explore the outdoors sometimes. I've been coming here

sometimes, ever since..." Jake trailed off suddenly.

Tallstar and Jake stood in silence, and suddenly Tallstar had an idea. "I know!" He meowed excitedly, "We can meet up!"

Jake's tail brushed the grass and he purred, "That's a great idea! We can catch up on everything we missed all this time!"

Tallstar glanced back at his territory, he suddenly felt worried. They had known that they had been kept apart by where they felt they belonged. "I just hope nobody worries, or that your twolegs don't-"

Jake interrupted him, but his voice was soft. "Don't worry. Go back to your clan. Come back in a moon, I'll see you then."

Tallstar nodded, "Alright. Promise me you'll come..."

"Wouldn't miss it, even if a fox chased me here!" Jake meowed playfully.

"Don't get yourself killed coming here just to see me! Then you'll never be able to see any cat again!" Tallstar replied, a hint of concern hidden in his words, even if he had been joking.

"Don't worry," Jake mewed again, "You always get so worried."

"Well... That's because I care about you..." Tallstar replied.

"I care about you too."

Tallstar turned to finally leave, "Jake..."

"Yes?" Jake responded, "What is it Tallstar?"

"What's the real reason you came here?" Tallstar asked.

Jake was silent for a moment. "I-Uh... The flowers are beautiful here, and it all reminded me of you." Jake meowed quietly. "Tallstar, I really missed you."

"I really missed you too..." Tallstar meowed.

"Finally, I can see you again..." Jake mewed.

"I thought I never would either..." Tallstar trailed off, his focus on Jake, not his words.

"Uh, Tallstar... I think I... I think I love you!" Jake burst out suddenly. "You're not like any of the other cats I've met... You really care and I-Uh..."

"Jake... I think I love you too." Tallstar meowed.

Jake had a look of relief spread across his face. "I'll see you in a moon..." Jake meowed.

Tallstar flicked his tail at Jake playfully, "You better!"

Then he turned, and they part ways once more. This time, they each carried hope. They would get to see eachother again. It didn't matter that they were apart anymore, because even if they dealt with grim situations, they would always have eachother to fight for. That was something that neither of them could forget.

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Author's Note: Okay, I'm not used to this writing style, so it kind of is boring. Anyways, this is my favorite ship in the Warriors series. I apologize for any errors, grammatically or in setting or the canon warriors timeline. I spent a lot of time writing this, so I hoped you enjoyed it. :D
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two: another promise

Jake opened his emerald eyes, he heard the voice of his owners calling. He suddenly remebered what today was, he would finally see Tallstar again, it had been a whole moon after all. He quickly ate his breakfast, as his family called it, he had taken quite a liking to the food Tallstar thought was disgusting, which just showed how different they were. Tallstar, a warrior, Jake, a kittypet. Jake yawned and stretched, he knew he had to leave soon if he wanted to be there to see Tallstar at the time he promised. Jake meowed to let his owners know he would leave the house, they nodded, "See you later Jake!"

Before Jake has gotten anywhere, he saw a cat in the distance. It seemed to be a she-cat, "Quince?!" Jake meowed in shock. Low and behold, he suddenly saw Quince. Her gray fur, amber eyes, collar and all. Quince was Jake's mate a while back, he hadn't seen Quince for very long.

"Hello Jake," Quince mewed, "Where have you been?"

"It's been a while... Quince," Jake meowed, "How have you been?"

"Ruby, Socks got taken to homes, of course you already knew that... Well, actually, I saw them recently, the you know Tiny ran away, and the kits have grown up, they look so mature and old..." Quince trailed off for a second, but immediatley began talking again, "Oh, and did you hear about how some cat saw a group of forest cat near here, scary thing! I can't believe you've befriended forest cats-"

Jake cut off Quince, "I'm sorry, I can't talk now Quince," He paused, "I have somewhere to be..."

"Oh, but it's so long since I've seen you, we have catching up to do!" Quince protested.

"I'm sorry. I can't, I have to go," Jake meowed, trying to not sound irritated.

"Fine then, where are you going anyways?" Quince asked, clearly annoyed.

"It's not any of your buisness..." Jake meowed in reply, turning to the forest.

"Wait! You're going to the forest aren't you!" Quince shrieked im shock.

"Oh, you know I love going out to see the forest sometimes... It's beautiful, really..." Jake meowed, trying to prevent him voice from sounding suspicious.

"Why would you rather be in the forest than catch up with your mate?!" Quince was angry now, but Jake didn't let that bother him as it had in the past. He knew Quince could be scary when she was angry, but he wanted to see Tallstar, and that didn't matter anymore.

"Look... Quince, I'll catch you later..." "I promised something to an old friend... Goodbye, Quince." Jake meowed calmly im reply, and turned to the forest.

"Jake!" Quince yowled angrily, "I hope you're not seeing that cat again! He doesn't deserve your time!"

Jake tempted to turn around and yowl at Quince in reply, just muttered to himself, "I decide who's a waste of my time..." He prayed Quince couldn't hear him.

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In the distance, Jake saw Tallstar. "You're finally here!" Tallstar meowed, sounding happy. Jake loved it when he was happy, he sounded so... cute? Jake wasn't sure, but it made him feel happy too, nonetheless. "What took you so long?" Tallstar asked, sounding curious.

"It... It was nothing..." Jake mewed slowly, he was trying to figure out if he wanted to tell Tallstar about his run-in with Quince or not.

"You can tell me," Tallstar meowed eagerly, "I trust you... You trust

me right?" He asked.

"O-Okay," Jake gave up, he shouldn't keep anything from Tallstar, especially if he had feelings for him like he had suspected yesterday, "You won't like it..." He sighed.

"Just tell me!" Tallstar meowed, irritated.

"I saw my mate, or she was my mate... Quince, you met her, way back when..." Jake meowed.

"Quince never liked me, did she..." Tallstar mewed quietly.

"Long story short, she thought we had plenty of time to catch up..." Jake began, "She got really mad when she heard I had to go, especially to the forest of all places..."

"Did her fur get ruffled, like when she first saw me?" Tallstar asked.

Jake purred in amusement, "Yeah, it did..."

They sat in silence for a moment, Jake rested his head on Tallstar's shoulder. After a while, Tallstar began, "Jake... You... You don't think Quince will try to stop you next time, do you?"

"Quince can't stop me," Jake replied, "Not any cat could."

"Okay, but what if..." Tallstar began.

"What?" Jake asked, sounding just as eager as Tallstar had before, but there was concern in his voice.

"Never mind..."

"You made me tell you about Quince, tell me." Jake meowed.

"Well... What if Quince finds out I'm with you?" Tallstar asked, sounding nervous.

"So what? I won't let Quince stop me from seeing you." Jake meowed, his voice stern.

"But... Quince thinks you still wanna be her mate!" Tallstar

protested, worried.

"Tallstar, do you... Love me?" Jake asked.

"Y-Yes, Jake..." Tallstar replied, sounding surprised.

"Well if Quince doesn't want me to be with you, or any other cat... They can't stop the fact that we care about each other..." Jake meowed, he sounded more sure about anything than he ever had, "I'm positive."

Tallstar nodded, "Jake, nothing will stop me from seeing you again. I'll make sure to never miss meeting you, until we both go to StarClan... Or wherever housecats go..."

Jake nodded, "I promise I'll see you again too," Jake turned to the beautiful view. The sum was still up, the sky was full of clouds. The flowers blew im the wind, everything was okay, "Now, let's make sure we spend at leats some of our rime together doing what we came for, I want to know what I missed."

Tallstar nodded, "I agree. Let's talk about things that really matter. How have you been Jake?"

three: questions

Tallstar had been out in the woods, rabbit in his jaws, he was heading back fo camp. The breeze of the moor blew in his fur, he gazed up at the sky, the sun was setting. The sky was filled with vibrant colors, each faded into eachother, the blue, pink, orange. The milky white clouds spread above him, Tallstar felt free, just as he had when he returned to his clan moons ago. It had been a while since he was able to hunt alone. Usually he and his clanmates took a patrol together, but they never stopped him from hunting alone. Tallstar turned to head back to camp, although he wanted to stay and stare at the sky forever. He wanted to feel the breeze in his fur, he wanted to feel as if he were about to float asay into the horizion. Mostly of all, he wished Jake had been there to stare at the sky with him. Maybe it was silly, but Tallstar thought that Jake would enjoy what he saw as much as he had. They would tease eachother, and talk. He would be able to tell Jake about more adventures he and his clan had been om, and the hardships he had faced. Jake would tell him all about the crazy rouges and kittypets at the twoleg place, and his housefolk. Tallstar shook his head, it had only been a few days since he had seen Jake. Despite all this, Tallstar felt like it had been so long.

Tallstar turned to head back to camp, the grass brushed against his fur. He felt the wind one last time, he knew he would be back soon. He rather enjoyed hunting by himself. He would worry his clanmates if he didn't return to camp soon, he was leader of WindClan after all.

Tallstar ran into camp, the stars were out now. Kits were playing outside the nursery, but their mothers nudged them inside. Tallstar hadn't realized how late it had been. His deputy padded up to him, "You're finally back,"

Tallstar nodded, "Sorry if I worried you, I just wanted to go on a quick hunt... I lost track of time..."

He exchanged words with a few other cats before making his way to

his den, he closed his amber yellow and drifted off to sleep.

+ + +

Tallstar opened his eyes, and blinked. It was morning, he waited a little while before he decided to get up. Although he had waited, his clanmates were still in their warm dens. Tallstar could see the sun rising in the distance. "Good morning Tallstar." A cat from behind him yawned. He jumped a bit, turning, he saw it was Barkface.

"Oh! Hellow Barkface!" He meowed, "You caught me by surprise."

"Sorry, I guess your incredible senses aren't working this morning." Barkface teased. He and Barkface had been good friends since kithood, Barkface had always helped him out when he needed it.

"Maybe you're right..." Tallstar meowed, sounding quiet suddenly.

"What's wrong Tallstar?" Barkface asked, "You've seemed distant lately..."

"Oh, It's nothing to worry about." Tallstar meowed cautiously.

"Alright..." Barkface trailed off, "Not planning any other quests for revenge?" Barkface joked.

"Haha, don't worry about me Barkface." Tallstar and Barkface has always made jokes, but he wondered if Barkface was actually concerned that he would leave the clan again. This was his home... Where else would he go? There was a time when he had believed that he and Jake would go on adventures together forever, but Jake was a kittypet. Neither of them could, and why would he come back only to leave again?

Tallstar shrugged, "I need cats for the dawn patrols!" He yowled, all of the clan was awake now. He chose cats to go on the dawn border patrol and hunting patrol. He then turned to watch them leave camp, he was happy with his clan. He respected all his clanmates, they respected him. Why did he feel so strange? What made him any different from them? Would they be upset if they ever found out about his visits with Jake? What would happen if the other clans found out? Would they question his loyalty to his clan?

Author's Note: Hello to anyone who's still reading this! Sorry about this boring chapter, it's (sort of) filler. It's also very short compared fo the other chapters, but never fear. I will update again very soon, so two chapters will be out instead of just this one. ;)

Thanks for reading and voting guys!

four: kittypet

Jake was in his yard, he was incredibly bored. He felt the morning sunlight on his warm pelt, but he also felt boredom. It was if there was absolutely nothing to do, so he sat in his yard, he lay in the warm spring grass. Jake's tired emerald eyes drooped, he didn't feel tired. Maybe he was, he couldn't tell.

Jake had no reason to leave either, he didn't need to go see Tallstar or anyone. He didn't wnat to leave, he felt nervous that he might run into someone he didn't want to see. It had happened before. Jake was usually liked to wander, and was considered adventurous for a house cat. He was usually out with his neighbor cats, or at least in the neighborhood. He liked to talk to other cats, he liked to catch prey too, since he had been taught by Tallstar.

Jake sighed, he got up, nothing interesting would happen unless he left his yard. Jake slowly walked inside his house, his housefolk brushed their hands against his fur, he purred. He then stepped onto the cold tile floor, and then Jake stepped outside. He felt the warm cement ground under his paws. He was used to it, and he enjoyed sunny days in particular. The cloudy skies, and the warmth that filled his fur made him happy.

It had been two weeks since he last had seen Tallstar, it wouldn't be much more time until he did. He began to walk down the same old path that he was used to, sometimes he saw dogs on this path, but he was too quick for them, and they too had housefolk who stopped them. Jake was enjoying himself, but he immediatley regretted leaving from his warm home. He saw a cat, in the distance. It was a she-cat. Quince! Why did this kind of stuff happen to him? It was like some silly story.

"Hello Jake!" Quince meowed, she sounded happy. Jake found her actions insane.

"Uh... Hi Quince!" Jake nervously replied.

"Jake, it's been forever!" Quince brushed her tail against his fur, Jake tried not to cringe. He hated the way Quince acted. He had been her mate, but he has stopped spending time with her for a reason. Jake had once loved Quince, but now she was just a delusional she-cat who couldn't leave him alone.

"Yes... Well, two weeks... Er, then... What is it that you want Quince?" Jake asked slowly.

"I want you to stop. Don't pretend I don't know why you went to the forest two weeks ago." Quince was suddenly hostile.

"What is this about?" Jake's ears flattened, he knew he was letting Quince know she was winning, but he couldn't control his nervousness.

"You can't live with the forest cats!" Quince angrily flicked her tail.

"Oh, don't worry. I wasn't planning on it-" Jake began.

"Then why have you been in the forest?!" Quince begged, rage in her voice.

"I told you! I was visiting a friend!" Jake hissed.

"Oh, I see how it is!" Quince paced back and forth, "This is worse than I ever imagined!"

"W-What?!" Jake sputtered, confusion pricked his pelt.

"You and that other cat..." Quince meowed, "That black and white cat I met moons ago..." Quince's tail brushed against the concrete as she paced, "You've been meeting him!" She hissed.

"What's any of this have to do with you?!" Jake asked, shock in his voice.

"That cat! He's a forest cat!" Quince sounded terrified. She suddenly turned to Jake, "He will only hurt you!"

"No he won't! He's hurt me less than you ever have!" Jake protested.

"Oh yes he will, he'll hurt you. You'll get dragged into some foolish battle! You could get hurt!" Quince argued.

"Why does this matter to you?! Am I not allowed to spend time with any other cat?!" Jake hadn't been this angry for a long while.

"No Jake, it's because that cat loves you..." Quince meowed quietly.

"Maybe he does, why should that cause you to hate him? How does that give you the right to hate him!?" Jake asked.

"Jake I wish you loved me still..." Quince meowed.

"This is all an example of why I-" Jake began.

"I know. I know you don't love me anymore. I'm just worried, if you love him, you're going to get yourself into trouble. Jake I still care about you. He's a forest cat, you're a house cat. He called you a kittypet!" Quince's eyes were full of fear. Why was she suddenly telling him her feelings? This was part of Quince he had loved, she was still there deep inside. Jake missed the old Quince, but he loved Tallstar.

"I-" Jake began, "Quince, I can't control who I love. You can't control who I am." Jake mewed, he sounded calm again. "Just- Just leave..."

"Alright, fine. You're a fool. Don't say I didn't warn you!" Quince turned and ran off.

Jake's head was spinning. What was going on?! Why was his life so suddenly full of troubles? His housefolk would worry if he stayed out any longer, they had been worried nearly to death when he had ran off with Tallstar. Had Tallstar just thought of him as just a kittypet then? Jake shook his head and turned home, he didn't need ot worry about what had happened in the past. Tallstar loved him, Quince might not have been as crazy as he had thought she was, and he had a home. What is Quince was right? What if Tallstar's clanmates tried to hurt him? Would Tallstar stop them? Jake shook his head again, Jake knew he would, it was crazy to think otherwise.

Jake soon found himself in his warm nest, he closed his eyes.

Everything is okay now, he thought. He was in his safe home. He would see Tallstar again soon, maybe he could clear things up with Quince... Maybe everything would be fine after all, even if Quince dared to try and get in his way again. He wouldn't let anycat stop him from being who he was.

five: it's okay.

Tallstar had a horrible dream, it was as if he was trapped in the dark forest, but he only had seen his clan mates. He heard their yowls for help, but he couldn't do anything. He was running in fear, he heard whimpering and saw blood, He heard kits mewling for help. He kept running, panting he turning he saw an orange cat standing in a clearing. Jake!

"Tallstar, what have you done....?" Jake paused, his eyes looked sad and empty. "Tallstar, why did you-"

Tallstar jolted awake suddenly. He felt his heart racing, and he felt fear still lingering in his chest but then came a sudden wave of relief. Tallstar's heart felt trapped in his chest one moment but his pulse began to slow when he looked outside.

Tallstar saw the quiet empty camp early again. The sun barely shone, it wasn't even sunrise. It was almost still dark. He suddenly remembered something, he was supposed to meet Jake again today. He felt sudden hope welling up in his chest. Maybe, just maybe things would be alright. Tallstar suddenly felt himself shiver, the early morning air was cold. Tallstar saw his black and white fur bristle, he suddenly felt as id he should go back into his warm den. Maybe it was too early to be awake.

"Good morning Tallstar..." Yawned a cat, who seemed exhausted. Tallstar turned to see who it was. It was Barkface.

"Hello Barkface," Tallstar meowed, "You don't need to be awake so early. You can go get more rest."

"No worries Tallstar, medicine cats should be awake bright and early anyways." Barkface replied.

"Barkface, I remember when we were apprentices. You always loved to get plenty of rest, it's far too early for any cat to be awake anyways..." Tallstar argued.

"Fine, Tallstar..." Barkface paused, staring at his paws. "You should get more rest too."

"I'll make an effort..." Tallstar replied, trying to sound reassuring though it was patrially a lie.

"Okay, good." Barkface mused, somehow sounding skeptical. Barkface glanced over his shoulder before turning back to the medicine den. "Goodnight, er rather morning..." Barkface meowed sleepily.

Tallstar just nodded. "Get some rest Barkface..." He meowed, the medicine cat didn't respond.

Tallstar turned to return to his warm nest, although he knew he woukdn't be able to fall asleep again, he knew he should at least try. He stepped inside his den, it felt empty in that moment. Tallstar then realized he was tired, so he slowly curled up into his nest. He felt warm again, like the cold air could no longer reach him. Tallstar looked at the stars fading to the early morning light one last time, and slowly closed his eyes.

+ + +

Hours later, Tallstar woke up. None of the cats in camp had waken him up and the sun was higher in the sky. He felt nervousness and subtle annoyance. He saw Barkface awake again too, talking to his apprentice Kestrelflight.

Tallstar ran up to them, "Sorry about interrupting you two, but.... Why didn't you two wake me up? Or even my deputy..."

Kestrelflight flicked his tail not seeming concerned, "Barkface suggested we let you get some rest."

Barkface seemed to sort of shrug, "You've seemed upset lately-"

"What will the clan think?!" Tallstar asked, he saw the two medicince cat's expressions change. "They'll think they just have a lazy leader who doesn't care for them!"

Barkface began again, looking surprised. "N-No, they won't Tallstar.

I assure you everything will be fine-"

"No it won't!" Tallstar knew he sounded terrified and desperate.

"You have to calm down," Kestrelflight muttered.

"Tallstar..." Barkface began, sounding sad.

Had Tallstar not been thinking, he would've yowled angrily again. Suddenly, part of him changed. Tallstar couldn't be mad at his clanmates, they weren't trying to cause any harm. And he shouldn't worry that his clan would be angry about him sleeping instead of getting up early to help out, they cared too and would understand. What had he ever been worried about? Were his nightmares getting to him? Tallstar let out a deep sigh, "I guess you're right..."

"Thank you, Tallstar." Kestrelflight's voice sounded dull and quiet.

Tallstar turned to leave with Jake in his mind, but then he heard Barkface again.

"We're worried Tallstar, this isn't like you at all..." Barkface spoke softly, but Tallstar could hear him clearly. Tallstar didn't move. "You've seemed so distant lately..."

Tallstar didn't know how to respond. "I-Uh..." He sighed. "I'm sorry Barkface. It's just... When I left the clan many moons ago..."

"We've all heard the stories Tallstar..." Barkface meowed softly. "I was worried you would never come back. I'm worried that something like that might happen again."

"I miss him Barkface..." Tallstar meowed.

"I know you do. I can tell, just by looking at you. I think the clan can tell too, it's in your eyes. You miss something." Barkface's words shocked Tallstar. He had known that Barkface was a wise medicine cat, but he was presice and meaningful with his words. It was almost too close for Tallstar, but he wasn't sure why.

"I'm sorry Barkface! Everything I've been doing is wrong... I need to fix this!" Tallstar wailed. He suddenly realized he had given away

too much information when his friend's eyes widened.

"Go Tallstar, I pray to StarClan that today will be the day where everything goes back to normal for you." Barkface was calm.

Talkstar turned and raced through the woods, Did he really have to leave Jake behind again? He might never see him ever again! Tallstar's heart pounded in his chest as it had earlier. What would he say? What would he do? Nothing would ever go back to normal after this! He knew him and Jake had just been a silly fantasy, and that he would have to choose in the end, but how would it affect Jake? He had never been more upset with himself.

He reached the clearing that he and Jake had been in. Near the twoleg place, but just off clan territory. He saw Jake, who's eyes immediately were filled with joy with one look at Tallstar. A tear streaked down Tallstar's face.

"Jake..." He began. He was about to speak. He would hurt Jake with what he had known the whole time, but he didn't know how to say it.

"Tallstar..." Jake meowed, his eyes looking surprised by Tallstar's sudden emotion.

"I'm sorry." More tears came.

The words from earlier, 'What have you done Tallstar?' echoed in Tallstar's mind. Just that morning he had hear the same thing, and now it tormented him over and over again.

They were able to see the whole forest from where they stood. On the edge of clan and kittypet territory, sometimes they were able to make out the shapes of cats. They had watched the clans and rolled in the grass together a month ago.

"Look Tallstar! There's WindClan cats!" Jake had meowed in excitement.

Tallstar nodded. All he could ever think about was how adorable Jake was when he was excited.

So many other times flashed though his head, like when he first had met Jake.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!" Talkstar sobbed. Jake rested his head on Talkstar's shoulder to comfort him. Jake was almost saying, 'It's fine. It's alright. It's okay.'

More tears streamed down Tallstar's face, his eyes felt red from crying too much, and his head began to hurt.

Suddenly they heard a distant yowl. Tallstar looked and saw cats on Windclan territory, and other cats. ShadowClan?! What was happening?!

"It's not over yet Tallstar." Jake meowed softly.

Author's note:

HEY I'M BACK FROM THE DEAD! Thanks for all the views and love! <3

I apologize for this chapter, I hope you aren't all screaming as I am. (Although if you are I did my job!)

I had this planned but had been slow in finding a way to advance in the plot, abd now the story is suddenly extremely fast paced whoops!

Enjoy! More updates will be coming soon! Love you all! <3

six: jake!

Tallstar was terrified. What was he supposed to do?! What was happening? Why was ShadowClan attacking them? They had plenty of their own territory, and WindClan had respected them. It was usually RiverClan who picked fights with other clans, mainly ThunderClan though, since they continously fought over the Sunning Rocks.

Jake seemed calm, since the first thing he did was race down the hill. StarClan, Jake had gotten faster since he had last seen him. Tallstar immediately raced after him and caught up to him quickly. He yowled Jake's name out of shock and anger. Jake suddenly stopped.

"Tallstar, we have to go help your clanmates!" Jake meowed desperately.

"You don't, I do! It's far too dangerous for a..." Tallstar stopped himself before he said the words kittypet. He knew Jake was far more than a kittypet, but he never saw Jake as a cat who could fight alongside clan cats.

"Tallstar, I'm not just a kittypet! I can help you!" Jake's eyes looked sad, "I thought you would be the one cat who understood." Jake closed his eyes and sighed, "I guess you're not..."

"Jake!" Tallstar gasped when he tried to speak. His head was still spinning. "That's not what the problem is..." He whispered, but Jake was already gone.

No, no, no! Tallstar was frozen in terror. Jake could get hurt or captured in RiverClan or ThunderClan territory, but if he made it to WindClan it would be the worst possibility. Tallstar wanted to go, he knew he could easily catch up to Jake. But he didn't know what to do. He was frozen stiff out of pure terror, his brain working just to try and catch up what what had taken place.

Why was Jake acting like this? Tallstar wondered to himself. Was it because he was about to tell him the bitter truth again, that he couldn't be with him anymore because if they continued, neither of them would ever belong where their hearts did. Was it because Jake felt neglected? Was it because Jake didn't see what harm he could cause himself? None of it made sense. Talkstar knew Jake was a understanding, intelligent, but stupidly brave cat, but he never saw anything like this ever happening.

Tallstar willed his legs ot move. About five minutes had passed since Jake ran off. At his speed he would be almost 3/4 of the way to WindClan territory. Tallstar sprinted like he never had before, he sprinted out of pure desperation and adrenaline.

Tallstar still wasn't quite sure why ShadowClan was even attacking WindClan, they had no obvious motives. It crossed his mind the whole time as he ran. Was it possible that they had hurt many of his clanmates already? He knew they were strong but sometimes ShadowClan fought dirty. They certainly would hurt Jake if they attacked him in a such a manner, Jake is too fair and just to ever imagine a cat using methods like those in fights. Was it possible that ShadowClan knew he wasn't there? Maybe they had been spying, or just thought Tallstar's leadership was weak and it would be easy to steal territory and prey. It was near the end of Green Leaf afterall, and prey wouldn't be as supple.

Tallstar's train of thought halted to a stop when he finally reached WindClan territory. He realized he needed to go, he couldn't think. Thinking would slow him down both physically and mentally and he had battles to fight. Unless he was too late. He couldn't be too late. He immediately noticed Jake up ahead. He ran faster than he ever thought he could in order to catch up to Jake.

He needed to apologize to him, and tell him what he really wanted to say. He needed to get to Jake before he got to camp.

WindClan camp was actually much closer than Tallstar had realized, but he was confident that he would be able to catch Jake and stop him.

"Tallstar!" A voice cried out. It was one of the kits. He stopped and

turned to see a litter of terrified kits.

"Where's your mother?" He managed to ask, briskly turned to them.

"We don't know!" Sobbed a tiny she-kit.

"She ran off to help our brother! He was so scared, and, and he ran away!" Another kitten added

"Alright. Stay put in the nursery, you should be safe in there. I'll make sure to find your mother immediately and tell her where you are," Tallstar turned to leave. "If I can't find her..." He paused, "I'll send a cat to watch over you."

He turned away, terrified for the safety of the kits. He knew he wasn't being a responsible leader, but his clanmates needed him in a time of crisis, they would need help in battle. Jake would already be there, he knew it. His heart pounded.

Tallstar ran into the midst of battle. All he could see were flashes of fur and blood. All he could hear were loud yowls of anguish, anger, and terror. It was like the whole world was spinning again, what was he supposed to do first? Find out why ShadowClan attacked? Find Jake? Look for the mother and the kit who ran off, although they may have run in a completely different direction? Tallstar didn't have any clue as to what was the right choice. He just stood there.

A leader needs to be brave, and quick at thinking. What are you doing Tallstar?!

He bumped into a cat, his eyes were met with an angry glare, but she was too distracted by his own fight to even bother and attack Tallstar.

Tallstar what are you doing?! You're supposed to help them!

He saw an anxious looking she cat. Is that the mother?

Tallstar you have to help her! You promised!

The she cat immediately turned to fight off a WindClan at who

scratched her leg.

Of course it's not her Tallstar, you should know all of your clanmates!

Tallstar couldn't help but wonder, where was Jake in the middle of all of this? He suddenly heard a voice. "Tallstar! Tallstar!"

Tallstar turned again, feeling as if he had been twisted around in every direction, his head spinning causing him to feel confused. He saw a she cat with a small kitten in her jaws. aone problem of many was solved.

"They're in the nursery! They're worried! Please go back to them!" He managed to speak. She nodded and sprinted in the other direction.

Tallstar, now you have to find Jake! He told himself. He began to run to the very center of the battlefield. It was almost perfect, and he had never been more terrified ever. He saw Jake standing there tall and proud, and Jake saw him. Jake wore a smile, but Tallstar knew he was sad.

"Jake!" He yowled, running up to him.

Thoughts circled through his head.

Jake, I'm sorry.

Jake, I love you.

Jake, I was worried.

Jake, what have I done?

Jake, why did you do this?

Jake, what am I supposed to do?

seven: blur.

before i start: sorry for the inactivity, tbh i lost interest in this story but i'm going to do my bets to complete it. ily guys thanks for all the reads (holy crap 1k!) and love!

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How did he get here?

What had he expected?

All of this was a mistake.

Now, he saw Jake. Jake. His Jake. In the middle of a battle. Blood on his pelt.

But Jake was still an idiot. An adorable one, but an idiot nonetheless. Somehow, Jake held a smile. Through all of Jake's pain he held a smile.

Chaos unfolded around them, Tallstar couldn't speak.

"Tallstar, It's ShadowClan..." Jake spoke.

"I know Jake..."

"They-" Jake coughed, "They're trying to raid camp."

Tallstar's mind raced. *What could we possibly have that they want?!*

"Jake you need to leave," Tallstar said with a sudden sense of urgency.

"No, it's fine. I won't leave you behind." Jake smiled.

"No, Jake you need to leave right now!"
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"Wh-Why?" Jake asked surprised.

"Just leave!" Tallstar sounded angry. He didn't mean to hurt Jake, but he saw Jake's eyes darken as he flinched.

"Tallstar..."

"Jake, please."

Jake turned to leave past the sea of cats. *Was he really going to leave?* Tallstar wondered if he would ever see him again, but he had no time when the ringing of a loud yowl filled his ears when a ShadowClan warrior leaped at him, clawing his side. The scratches stung as they cut through his skin but Tallstar did not even flinch.

Tallstar yowled and kicked the warrior away with his hind legs and leaped to pin him down, striking with his left paw. The cat yowled in pain and ran off.

Mudclaw, his deputy. Where was Mudclaw?! Tallstar could only think of finding Mudclaw and figuring out the situation.

He ran to the heart of camp and yowled, "Mudclaw!"

There was his deputy. Blood on his claws and pelt, looking angry as ever. Mudclaw's eyes shone in the afternoon heat.

"Tallstar, where in StarClan have you been?!" Mudclaw angrily yowled back.

"I-It's a long story!" He responded. *Great Tallstar, now you'll have to explain later. Good luck coming clean out of this one.* "What happened here?! I leave and all of a sudden camp is a wreck!"

"Yeah, you noticed." Mudclaw sarcastically meowed. "ShadowClan is raiding again. They need prey, and they almost took a few kits!"

"Kits?!" Tallstar was shocked. How could they stoop so low?! They hadn't many kits this past season but they most certainly shouldn't take WindClan's kits. Tallstar let out an low hiss of anger. "How's the situation?" He asked.

"Not good. We've been getting destroyed. I've been trying to lead the cats but some of them won't listen to me!" Mudclaw responded, "Maybe because they've been waiting for their "leader" who has hardly been present. I guess he's been just so busy..." Mudclaw sneered.

Tallstar ignored his comments. "Mudclaw, I need you to lead the cats. Don't be too aggressive or else you might get somecat into a risky situation! I have to go deal with something!"

Before Mudclaw could respond, Tallstar sprinted off into the distance.

There had been one thing on his mind this whole time, and that had been Jake.

Jake hadn't really left the battle. He wouldn't. Even if he was scared.

It was all fuzzy inside his head. Tallstar couldn't think straight.

You promised! He wanted to wail. But Jake had never promised anything.

He sprinted as fast as he could, to the place he had last seen Jake run off to.

His vision felt blurry, all he could hear were yowls and all he could see was blood and pain. The suffering of many cats. None of them deserved it. The sky was darkening, and he heard a distant cry for help. *No, no, no, no, no, no...* It was just like... *The nightmare...!*

In the clearing ahead of him stood three cats. Two ShadowClan warriors. And... *Oh, StarClan why...* Jake!

Tallstar leaped in front of Jake, who looked wounded. He hissed at the warriors who were hurting Jake. How could they hurt him. Jake didn't deserve this.

Tallstar's eyes blurred for a second, all he could see was blood. It didn't seem to belong to the ShadowClan warriors, as they were

marked by a few scratches and one large gash.

"You'll pay for that kittypet!" Yowled a cat, he could Jake panting. He saw blood.

"Huh- Is that Tallstar?!" The two cats looked nervous.

"Leave him alone!" Tallstar hissed.

They smirked. "Why, is that the WindClan leader? Fighting for a *kittypet!* Pathetic!"

The way they said the words stung, and Tallstar was a clan cat.

"I said leave him alone!"

"Sorry," The first cat said, "No can do,"

"Look what he did to her!" The second cat angrily meowed, pointing a bloody claw at his companion's wounds.

"Look what you did to him!" Tallstar hissed, even more angrily.

Jake's wounds were extreme compared to those of the other cats. They had scratched right underneath his eye, which was now halfway closed.

"Stupid WindClan, helping weak kittypets!" Spat the first cat.

"Shut up!" Tallstar yowled.

The world began to blur again as if it was nothing, as if time itself became fuzzy. It didn't matter what happened, he would protect his clan, and his Jake. He leaped at the cats ready to fight.